

“That’s all
nonviolence is—
organized love.”

Joan Baez
(1941—)
Daybreak

Monday
September
1984

24

By 9 A.M. I was standing in the Tinker Creek
and doing my laundry. What a
wonderful experience. It is now
hanging on a clothes line out back.
In the time between the hanging of
the clothes and my departure
for Carbondale (around 2 P.M.), I
finished my 1984 Autumnal Equinox
letter to DWP and organized at my
desk.

11:50 AM — Forest City High School telephoned and asked if
I could substitute on Tuesday and Wednesday,
October 2-3, for the school librarian. Sam skipping
a beat I said yes. I am to arrive there at
8:30 A.M. Excellent. My substitute teaching
career appears to be launched.

1 P.M. — Jean Colville telephoned and said that she
had been talking with Charlotte Moss and that
she & Joe had seen it in the paper (Times?) that
I was teaching French at Lakeland! They must
have seen the school board meeting minutes in
which it was announced that I had applied for
a teaching position there in French.

Received an application for a teaching position at Trunkhannock area
School District, 200 Franklin Avenue, Trunkhannock, PA
18657 — 717-836-3111; sent (from letter) from Dr. Roger A.
Place and so Dr. SILAS R. POWELL replied. Completed
application will be mailed 09-25-1984. Curiously, I
haven't any idea how we would drive to Trunkhannock —
nevertheless I shall allow them to interview me.

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THE SCRANTON TIMES, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1984, p. 9

Lakeland Director's Actions Questioned

By JOE VINANSKY
Upvalley Bureau

Mayfield — Allegations that Anne Gardus may have overstepped her authority as a school director by conducting a spot check of cafeteria workers in the Lakeland Elementary School without first consulting with Superintendent Thomas O'Donnell surfaced at Wednesday night's Lakeland School Board meeting.

President Eugene Jubinsky questioned Mrs. Gardus about her alleged involvement in "looking at the hands of a cafeteria worker" employed in the Scott Twp. elementary building. According to Jubinsky, Mrs. Gardus, following a complaint from an unnamed district employee, visited the elementary building during school hours and proceeded to meet with several cafeteria workers. Jubinsky said Mrs. Gardus spoke with one employee and allegedly inspected that person's hands — an implication that the cafeteria worker may be posing a health risk by working at the school.

"I want to know... as an independent director, does that person have the right to walk into a school and do this?" asked Jubinsky.

Solicitor John Kriza responded by saying that, "An individual school director has no right or authority to interfere in the daily operations of a school district."

But Mrs. Gardus argued that she did not "order any cafeteria worker to show me her hands." Instead, Mrs. Gardus said she walked into the cafeteria and several employees came over to her "to say hello." She emphasized that the cafeteria worker in question voluntarily "showed her hands to me."

Norma Jones concurred and suggested that Kriza "should interpret the law for everyone."

Another board member, Michael Costa, suggested that any questions about daily school operations be directed to Superintendent O'Donnell as mandated by district policy.

At this, Mrs. Gardus remarked, "We can't look at a teacher or superintendent without permission?"

Mrs. Gardus said she visited the cafeteria after receiving a complaint from an unnamed district employee. "All I did was ask the cafeteria manager if there was a physical on every person in the cafeteria," said Mrs. Gardus.

But Jubinsky said Mrs. Gardus erred in "not following the proper channels." He charged Mrs. Gardus with "not having the authority to take matters like this on your own."

Following a heated exchange between Mrs. Gardus and Jubinsky, Superintendent O'Donnell addressed the board. O'Donnell stated that the cafeteria worker in question did have an approved physical on file. Following the board meeting, O'Donnell told The Times that "any director is welcome to contact me to check the records of personnel or any items of that nature."

He indicated that other school board members have frequently contacted district administrators seeking such information.

According to Mrs. Gardus, Jubinsky and several other members on the board frequently visit the Lakeland High School and conduct business without consulting O'Donnell.

Jubinsky denied these claims and said, "Everytime I'm at the school, I'm on district business."

The appointment of a part-time cafeteria worker also generated considerable debate when a nomination by Mrs. Jones to hire Debbie Evans to the post was rejected by a 6-2 board vote.

The reason mentioned Mrs. Evans is that Mrs. Wansacz (cafeteria manager) said she's the best cafeteria worker they have," said Mrs. Jones. She cited Mrs. Evans' experience as a substitute cafeteria employee as justification for the nomination.

However, the board rejected the nomination and instead appointed Dee Gerald as a part-time, four-hour-per-day, 180-day cafeteria worker at a wage of \$4.75 per hour.

Angered by the turn of events, Mrs. Jones cited the 6-2 vote as evidence of

a faction on the board. Jubinsky suggested that the board faction did not upset Mrs. Jones when she was "on the majority side."

In a related matter, the board appointed Theresa Liuzzo as a part-time cafeteria worker to be paid the same salary as Ms. Gerald.

The board also appointed Donna Blank as a 180-day custodian to be paid at the rate of \$5.65 per hour and appointed Eleanor Forbes as a part-time cafeteria worker at a salary of \$4.75 per hour.

Leaves of absence also figured in discussion as the board denied Charles Itchkawitz's request for a leave. Itchkawitz, athletic director and secondary guidance counselor at Lakeland, reportedly has taken a position with a school district in New York.

The board agreed to deny his request for a leave and to "terminate his employment for reasons of non-attendance and reporting off."

The board also agreed to post the athletic director vacancy created by Itchkawitz's absence.

In other business Wednesday, the board:

- Approved the addition of the following persons to the district's daily substitute teachers' list for the 1984-85 school year: Michael Kraky, Olyphant, industrial arts; Judy Gardus, Carbondale, elementary education; Janet Blanche, Dunmore, art; Robert Powell, Carbondale, French; Walter Buckman, Scranton, social studies; and Patricia Walker, Union Dale, elementary education.

- Accepted the resignation of cafeteria worker Ruby Blevins as tendered in her letter of Aug. 24.

- Accepted the resignation of custodian Andrew Pelachyk effective Dec. 31, 1984, as outlined in his letter of Sept. 5.

- Accepted the resignation of custodian Jeff Arnold as tendered in his letter of Aug. 27.

- Approved the elementary faculty handbook submitted by Carl Klach, elementary principal, and the Lakeland Junior-Senior High School student handbook submitted by Robert Ghigliarelli, secondary principal.

- Adopted the district's student discipline and conduct code which went into effect on Sept. 5.

- Authorized Klach to attend a Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary Principals Conference in King of Prussia from Oct. 10 through 13.

- Authorized Patricia Turissini, Lakeland's Future Homemakers of America adviser, and student FHA officers Ann Spataro and Daryl Yurgosky to attend FHA conference, seminars, and meetings as listed in their request dated Sept. 4.

- Authorized the payment of the semi-annual lease rental payment on the Lakeland Junior-Senior High School in the amount of \$326,400 due Oct. 15 which includes \$2,400 in authority expenses.

- Authorized the payment of \$1,571.09 to R.G. Engineering Co. for a data printer for a computer at the high school. Funds for this purchase will come from the district's 1980 bond issue.

- Authorized the payment of \$1,000 to Northeastern Bank for the annual fee as corporate trustee for the 1980 bond issue.

- Authorized the payment of the semi-annual lease rental payment on the Mayfield Elementary Building of \$72,210 due Nov. 1.

- Authorized the payment of \$236.80 for ceiling tiles to Pittston Lumber and Manufacturing Co.

SRP added to Lakeland's
daily substitute list.